

## ROUND 4 QUOTES

July 14, 2024

ERNIE ELS (-10)



**Q. Ernie, congratulations on your first PGA TOUR Champions major championship. You get to go back to Sawgrass and play in THE PLAYERS. How special's that going to be?**

**ERNIE ELS:** I don't know if I want to go, my record's not great there, but thank you.

No, this has been a long time coming. On this golf course 32 years ago I started playing here. I remember your father looked after me so well here back in the day, everybody in the locker room and the clubhouse, most of the members, but I've never got to win here, so this was really great.

**Q. Very special place. Great putt at 12, also at 14, 16. When you got to 17 tee, how did you get yourself to regroup?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Yeah, exactly. I hit too good a drive, I had to go for it. You don't get an opportunity too many times on 16. I had 222 yesterday and I flew it exactly 222, so it was my mistake, I made a bad swing. But as I look at it now, I was trying to make birdie because I saw Y.E. was at 10 so I was trying to get ahead of him. But then I dumped it in the water and it was a bit of a nervy finish at the end here, but we got it done.

**Q. That tee shot at 18, walk us through that one.**

**ERNIE ELS:** Exactly, the whole week I've been trying to hit that high cut. The whole day today I've been driving it well so I had a lot of confidence in the driver. I just had to pull off the shot. I hit it down the left and it was perfect.

**Q. I know you've played here many, many times in your career and played well at times and played not so well at times. Why this week, what happened? How did you get it to the finish line this week?**

**ERNIE ELS:** I've been tinkering with the shaft in my driver on the range and thinking about next week at The Open, trying to get ball flight right, but then doing that, I found some stuff in my swing. My ball position was way too forward, I brought it back in, just basics, and I really started making good contact on the ball. So I just went with that all week.

**Q. It's a game of adjustments, no doubt about it, when you get to a place like this and every tee shot is important out here. Four major championships in your career, Hall of Fame career, now your first PGA TOUR Champions major. What does this mean to you playing out here and now winning your third event of the year and your first**



**major?**

**ERNIE ELS:** I've just been watching Steve do it the last couple of years since I've been out here. He's been the man, he and Bernhard and some of the other guys. I like to work at my game still. I'm trying to keep myself healthy where I can swing hard at the ball, it's kind of fun still. But, you know, it's just trying to improve. As I say, I came here this week tinkering and then going through the basics of the golf swing and the fundamentals and I found something. So really fortunate because I've never really had a great record around here, but since we came on the Champions Tour, I've played a little better on the golf course.

**MODERATOR:** Great win at a very, very special place. We appreciate your time and congratulations.

**ERNIE ELS:** Thanks, my man. Thank you.

